

Application No.: 10/821071

Case No.: 59554US002

REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 28-34 and 37-38 are pending. Claims 17-27, 35-36 and 39-40 have been canceled. Claims 1-15, 31 and 37-38 have been amended.

Claims 1-7, 13-15, 17-21, 26, 28-32, 35 and 36 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lampert (U.S. Patent No. 3,522,681). Claims 37-40 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takizawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,186,878).

Claims 8, 9, 22, 33 and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampert in view of Long (U.S. Patent No. 6,210,389). Claims 8, 10, 11, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampert in view of Butler (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,056). Claims 8, 10, 12, 23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampert in view of Banfield (U.S. Patent No. 5,922,436). And claims 16 and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampert in view of Manor (U.S. Patent No. 5,807,161).

Independent claim 1, as amended, is directed to a conversion pad for attaching an abrasive article to a sanding tool. As explained in page 7, lines 13-15 of the present application, a conversion pad is secured to the sanding tool to allow the tool to be used with an abrasive article having an attachment system that could not otherwise be attached to the sanding tool. None of the cited references taken alone or in combination teach or suggest such a conversion pad.

Lampert discloses a rubbing apparatus including a platen 8 to which a sanding disc 2 may be secured using complementary pairs 4-4 of piled fabrics such as Velcro hook-and-loop fasteners. Lampert, however, fails to disclose a conversion pad. In addition, Lampert fails to disclose a conversion pad having an attachment surface comprising a single attachment layer as defined in amended independent claim 1. Nor does Lampert contain any teaching or suggestion to include a conversion pad. Accordingly, the teachings of this reference in no way render the present invention unpatentable.

Independent claim 28 is also directed to a conversion pad for attaching an abrasive article to a back-up pad. In rejecting claim 28, the Examiner asserts that "Lampert discloses a conversion pad (14)..." This, however, is erroneous. Reference number 14 refers to a socket in the platen 8.

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Thus, reference numeral 14 is a recess or void, not a conversion pad. Accordingly, independent claim 28 is believed to be patentable over Lampert.

Independent claim 37, as amended, is directed to an abrading tool including a back-up pad, a conversion pad, and an abrasive article wherein each of these components have substantially the same profiles with aligned outer edges, and further wherein the conversion pad includes a major surface including an attachment region for attaching the conversion pad with the abrasive article and a non-attachment region along at least a portion of an edge region of the second surface to allow a user to more readily grasp the abrasive article and thereby separate the abrasive article from the conversion pad.

Takizawa et al. disclose a fixing member for fixing a front end section to the rest of a base plate. Takizawa et al., however, fail to disclose an abrading tool including a back-up pad, a conversion pad, and an abrasive article wherein each of these components have substantially the same profiles with aligned outer edges. Takizawa et al. also fails to disclose an abrading tool wherein the conversion pad includes a major surface including an attachment region for attaching the conversion pad with the abrasive article and further includes a non-attachment region along at least a portion of an edge region of the second surface to allow a user to more readily grasp the abrasive article and thereby separate the abrasive article from the conversion pad. Nor does the Takizawa et al. reference contain any teaching or suggestion to modify the back-up pad, conversion pad, or abrasive article in such a way that they would have matching profiles or have the claimed attachment and non-attachment regions. Accordingly, the teachings of this reference in no way render the present invention unpatentable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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